

information is input into the database and is accessible by the computer network;

providing a first access to the database for determining the bed availability information by the user of the database; ~~and~~

inputting a medical condition of the user into the database;
and

~~to determine~~ determining the bed availability in the plurality of healthcare facilities for the user with the medical condition based upon the medical condition of the user.

Claim 2 (original): The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

providing the database on the network wherein access to the database is via the network.

Claim 3 (original): The method of Claim 1 wherein the network is the internet.

Claim 4 (original): The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

contacting one of the healthcare facilities after retrieving information about the healthcare facility.

Claim 5 (original): The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

providing a remote server; and

storing the database on the remote server.

Claim 6 (original): The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

providing a second access to the database wherein an extended care or a healthcare facility having beds enters the bed availability information into the database via the second access.

Claim 7 (original): The method of Claim 1 wherein an individual healthcare facility accesses the database to input the bed availability information for the individual healthcare facility.

Claim 8 (original): The method of Claim 1 wherein the bed availability information includes a quantity of empty beds available.

Claim 9 (original): The method of Claim 1 wherein the bed availability information includes types of empty beds available.

Claim 10 (original): The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

providing an internet-enabled form on a website for accessing the remote database and inputting information into the database.

Claim 11 (original): The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

searching the database for the bed availability information;
and

matching healthcare facility criteria with patient needs.

Claim 12 (original): The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

entering individual information related to a medical condition of a patient; and

searching the database based on the individual information for

the bed availability information.

Claim 13 (original): The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

providing a search engine for searching the database.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A system for storing and accessing bed availability information to a user wherein the bed availability includes information for a plurality of healthcare facilities wherein each of the plurality of healthcare facilities has a plurality of beds and receives a patient if a bed is available, the system comprising:

a computer network;

a database associated with the computer network;

means for inputting bed availability information of a plurality of healthcare facilities into the database;

means for accessing the bed availability information and retrieving the bed availability information from the database via the computer network; ~~and~~

means for inputting information about the patient into a form via the computer network wherein the information about the patient is stored in the database; and

means for determining if a bed is available based on the information about the patient.

Claim 15 (original): The system of Claim 14 wherein the bed availability information includes a quantity of beds available.

Claim 16 (original): The system of Claim 14 wherein the bed

availability information includes types of beds available.

Claim 17 (original): The system of Claim 14 wherein the bed availability information includes a projection of expected availability of beds at a facility in a specified time frame.

Claim 18 (original): The system of Claim 14 further comprising:

a remote server wherein the database is contained on the remote server; and

a website providing access to the database.

Claim 19 (original): The system of Claim 14 further comprising:

means for accessing the database wherein an individual healthcare facility enters the bed availability into the database.

Claim 20 (original): The system of Claim 14 further comprising:

means for searching the database for the bed availability information of healthcare facilities.